

TESTIMONY OF ADULT PROBATION OFFICER SARA BASFORD

IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 5125

PUBLIC HEARING, H.B. 5125

AN ACT LIMITING ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING PROBATION OFFICERS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

February 19, 2014

Good afternoon. First, let me begin by saying thank you to Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and the members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee for the opportunity to be heard.

My name is Sara Basford. I am an Adult Probation Officer with the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. I am assigned to the Danbury Office. I have been employed by the Judicial Branch for over twelve years.

As a probation officer, I supervise people convicted of a wide variety of crimes. It is the mission of the Court Support Services Division to reduce the number of people who reoffend all the while keeping offenders accountable for their actions. It is this accountability that needs to be addressed and H.B. 5125 does just that.

H.B. 5125 would not permit those persons on probation or those incarcerated for violation of probation to access my personnel file through the Freedom of Information Act. Similar protections currently exist for corrections officers and others with close contact with offenders. I have close contact with offenders and have been harassed by inmates simply because I have done my job as a probation officer.

In June of 2012, an inmate who was incarcerated for violating his probation made a Freedom of Information Act requesting my personnel file and other employment records. I was not informed of the request. Subsequently, information about me from my personnel file was sent to an inmate. A year after, I began receiving love letters from an inmate being held in the same correctional facility as the inmate that requested my information through the Freedom of Information Act. A copy of a letter I received is attached to my written testimony. In that letter, it says that he received my information from another inmate. The inmate that has my information and the one who sent me the letter is a reported member of a notorious street gang.

The release of this information was done without my knowledge and in compliance with current loopholes in the law.

I am asking that these loopholes be closed, as they have been closed for other public servants. Passing H.B. 5125 would close these loopholes.

As a public safety professional I am asking to help protect our information while I continue to protect the citizens of Connecticut.

Again, thank you for your time and for this opportunity.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

DEAR, SARA BASFORD

MY NAME IS MIKEY [REDACTED] AND

FOR REAL NO LIE, THIS IS MY LAST ENVELOPE TILL FRIDAY.
 AND I AM WRITING YOU BECAUSE MY FRIEND TOLD ME YOU W
 LOOKING FOR A MAN WHO IS CAPABLE OF TAKING GOOD CARE OF
 THEM SELF'S AND WHO CAN SUPPORT YOU, AND HE SAID YOU
 WOULD LOVE ME BECAUSE, I FIT YOUR CRITERIA AND YOU LIKE
 BIZZNESS MEN. - I GOT A ILL JOB WRITTING FILM SCRIPTS-
 AND I AM TRYING TO MET SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP ME STAY ON
 POINT AND MAINTAIN. I HOPE YOU DONT FEEL AKWARD, BUT I AM
 JUST TRYNA GET MY ACT TOGETHER AND STAY OUT THE JA
 SCENARIO! I'MA TELL YOU A LIL MORE ABOUT ME AND IF YOU
 ARE INTERESTED LET ME KNOW A.S.A.P. = I AM COMEING HOME SOON
 AND I GOT LONG HAIR, BRAIDS. I DO HAVE TONS OF TATTOOS, BUT
 NO GANG WORDS, JUST A BIG CASTLE ON MY BACK AND YOU WILL
 LOVE THE ART ON MY CHEST, A HEART WITH WINGS AND A RIVER
 MAKEING IT LOOK LIKE THE HEART FADE AWAY, (11) AND I GOT A
 SMALL HOUSE, NOT A MAMSON! PAID OFF AND A BMW 750, 2010, WHITE.
 I OWN A LLC COMPANY IN NEW MILFORD, CT AND I AM A
 WRIGHTER AND MADE \$350,000 LAST YEAR OFF A SCRIPT... AND IF
 YOU DONT BELEAVE ME, LOCK ME UP ON GOOGLE!!!! AND THERE MAY
 BE A CRIME I DID BACK IN THE DAY ABOUT A HESS GAS STATION, I AINT
 GOING TO LIE... I DID IT BUT IT WAS YEARS AGO WHEN I USE TO SMOKE
 WEEB, I BEEN SOBER FOR 2 YEARS AND I WONT SMOKE. I AM 5'9, 170 POUNDS
 AND I DRAW PORTRAIATS BTW! EVEN IF YOU AINT INTERESTED... I'LL DO
 YOU FOR FREE, TO SHOW YOU I HAVE TALENT! I AM A BO
 MAN CAUGHT IN THE MIX... TRYING TO TURN MY LIFE AROUND, SO LET
 ME KNOW WAS GOOD BEAUTIFUL... Respectfully submitted,

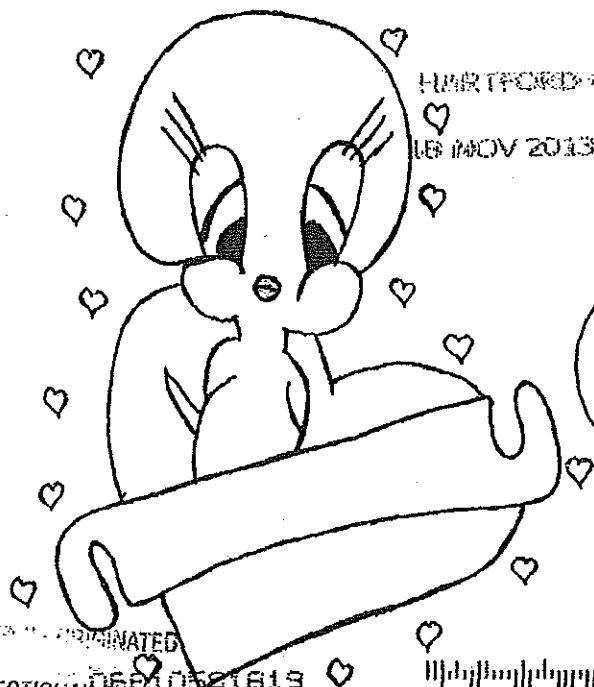
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MIKEY [REDACTED]

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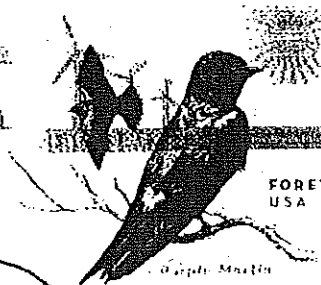
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★ SORRY FOR DRAWING ON ENVELOPE... MY LAST ENVELOPE TO YOU...★

✓ CORRECTIONAL CENTER
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e, CT 06382



HARTFORD CT 061
16 NOV 2013 PM 5 L



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SEP 10 2013



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